Beedi workers

†1650. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of beedi workers in the country, State-wise and the steps being taken by Government to take care of their interest and health and also to provide fair wages to them;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to make beedi workers aware about tuberculosis and its treatment;

(c) whether Government are taking any action against those factory owners who do not made payments towards provident fund meant for beedi workers; and

(d) if so, the names of the people in Rajasthan against whom action was taken during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) State wise number of beedi workers in the country is at Statement (*See* below). Government has enacted the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 and Minimum Wages Act, 1948 to protect the interest of beedi workers. Government is running a number of welfare schemes for beedi workers in the field of health, social security, housing, education and recreation.

(b) Awareness about tuberculosis and its treatment is extended through the dispensaries/hospitals meant for the beedi workers also by distributing pamphlets, and also by organising camps, special cinema shows and during the sports activities for beedi workers.

(c) Interests of beedi workers are being protected by the Government under various provisions of the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 by way of recovery action by attachment and sale of property of defaulter employers, prosecution, levying damages as panalty and also under sections 406/409 of IPC.

(d) Arrest warrant was issued on 25.10.2002 against Sh. Mohd. Sayeed S/o Sh. Mohd. Akhtar, Tonk (RJ/5749). Warrant of attachment of property was issued in September 2001 against M/s. Habibur Rehman, now Jeevan Beedi Works, Tonk.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

State-wise details of the total number of beedi workers upto date

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total No. of Beedi Workers Estimated at present	No. of Identity Cards issued till date	Updated Upto
1	Andhra Pradesh	625,050	603,583	May, 01
2.	Assam	7,725	5,791	Nov., 99
3.	Bihar	391,500	244,847	April, 97
4.	Gujarat	50,000	50,348	Dec., 02
5.	Karnataka	360,876	298,395	Feb., 00
6.	Kerala	136,416	112,887	Sept., 99
7.	Madhya Pradesh	827,194	827,194	Jan., 03
8.	Maharashtra	256,000	209,514	Jan., 03
9.	Orissa	160,000	167,466	Jan., 03
10.	Rajasthan	100,000	73,391	Dec., 02
11.	Tripura	5,000	4,814	Nov., 99
12.	Tamil Nadu	620,950	641,188	May., 01
13.	Uttar Pradesh	450,000	274,853	Nov., 02
14.	West Bengal	497,758	497,758	Nov., 99
	TOTAL	4,488,469	4,012,029	

Unemployed Persons

†1651. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed persons at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to provide them employment;

(c) the extent to which promise of providing employment to one crore of people every year has been fulfilled by Government, the number of youths provided with employment during the last three years; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.